

XIX. *Observations on the Ornithology of
Cambridgeshire.*

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IN drawing up the following paper, it has been my object to collect a few particulars respecting the Ornithology of Cambridgeshire. A first attempt towards any undertaking of this nature must necessarily be very imperfect. From this circumstance I desire that the present may not be considered as a complete catalogue of the birds which are found in this county, especially as the greater part of the observations from which it has been chiefly compiled, have been confined to the neighbourhoods of Cambridge and Bottisham. With the view, however, of rendering it as extensive as possible, and in some measure of supplying the deficiency arising from this cause, I have added from our English authors whatever notices I could find in their works relating to species which though formerly met with in this district have not lately occurred to my knowledge. There is the greater interest attached to these, as there is reason to believe that many of them have become extremely rare, if not wholly extinct, in consequence of the striking change which has of late years taken place in the face of this county from drainage and enclosure. I have also occasionally benefitted from the information of my friends. Such are the sources from whence I have drawn my materials. Under many

of the species I have inserted, from personal observation, a few remarks illustrative of their habits and manners; particularly distinguishing such as are indigenous from such as are only periodical or occasional visitants. Possibly some of these observations are not new, but it is perhaps of advantage to the science to have them confirmed in different parts of the country. I have judged it unnecessary in a paper of this nature to give any synonyms or full descriptions, but have annexed to each species a reference to Temminck, in whose excellent *Manuel d'Ornithologie** ample information on these subjects will be found. In the systematic arrangement, with the exception of one or two instances, I have uniformly followed that author.

ORDER I. RAPACES.

GENUS I. FALCO. *Linn.*

SP. 1. *F. peregrinus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 22.

PEREGRINE FALCON.—There is a specimen of this bird in the Museum of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, which was shot near Cambridge in the spring of 1823. I have since heard of others that have been observed at Coton.

SP. 2. *F. Subbuteo*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 25.

HOBBY.—A nest of these birds was once found at Cottenham.

SP. 3. *F. Æsalon*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 27.

MERLIN.—Inserted on the authority of Graves, who in his *British Ornithology* has figured a specimen which was killed near Cambridge.

* I refer to the second edition in two volumes octavo, published at Paris in 1820.

SP. 4. *F. Tinnunculus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 29.

KESTRIL.—This is by far the most common hawk we have. The nest, which consists of little else than a few sticks loosely put together, is often placed on the tops of the tallest spruce firs. The eggs are four or five in number, of a reddish brown colour, stained with darker spots and blotches. These are hatched the latter end of April.

SP. 5. *F. Nisus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 56.

SPARROW-HAWK.—The males of this species occur much less frequently than the females.

SP. 6. *F. Milvus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 59.

KITE.—Not so abundant as the two preceding species.

SP. 7. *F. Buteo*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 63.

COMMON BUZZARD.

SP. 8. *F. Lagopus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 65.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD.—A specimen of this bird, shot in the vicinity of Cambridge, is in the collection of Dr. Thackeray, Provost of King's College.

SP. 9. *F. rufus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 69.

MOOR BUZZARD.—This species is entirely confined to the fens and low grounds, in which situations however it is very plentiful, building its nest amongst the tall grass and rushes. I have had the newly fledged young brought me from Burwell fen, the second week in May: these have uniformly wanted the yellow patch on the crown of the head, so conspicuous in the adult bird. It is at all times a variable species with respect to plumage, being sometimes found with the lower half of the abdomen entirely white, and the other parts of the body here and there spotted with that colour. This and the Common Buzzard bear indiscriminately the provincial name of *Puttock*.

SP. 10. *F. cyaneus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 72.

HEN HARRIER, Male. } This species seems also to be most
RING-TAIL, Female. }

partial to marshy districts; at least it always breeds in such situations, placing its nest on the ground. In the young birds the difference of plumage between the two sexes is not discernible.

GENUS II. STRIX. Linn.

* With ears.

SP. 11. S. Otus, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 102.

LONG-EARED OWL.—This is a rare species. Some years ago a female was taken out of a hollow tree at Bottisham, and was kept alive for a few days, during which time it layed one egg of a dull white colour. It has this year (1825) been shot at Swaffham Prior.

SP. 12. S. Brachyotos, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 99.

SHORT-EARED OWL.—This is only seen with us during the autumnal and winter months, retiring northward in the spring to breed. Though unknown in many parts of England, it is not uncommon throughout the low grounds of Cambridgeshire, where it makes its first appearance towards the latter end of September. I have been informed that in the fens, in the neighbourhood of Littleport, these birds are sometimes found in astonishing plenty, particularly after those seasons which have been most productive of field mice, which appear to be their favourite food and a great object of attraction. In those districts they are known by the name of *Norway Owl*, being supposed to come over to us from that country*. Their usual haunts are fields of coleseed and turnips, in which situations they may often be put up one after another to the number of fifty or more; but they are never observed in stubbles or amongst trees during the day, though they resort to these last to roost at night, and at such times seem much attached to plantations of spruce firs.

* Montagu in his Ornithological Dictionary appears to have been of the same opinion.

* * With smooth heads.

- S. *flammea*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 91.

WHITE OWL.—The food of this species is entirely confined to fresh field mice, which are devoured whole. During the breeding season, which continues throughout the summer, I have observed that it will often catch shrew mice, and bring them home to its young, but it is worthy of note that these were uniformly rejected afterwards, (probably on account of their strong musky odour,) and might be found entire at the foot of the nest. In one instance that occurred at Ely, I noticed amongst these rejectamenta a mutilated specimen of the rare species, the Watershrew (*Sorex fodiens*).

- SP. 14. S. *Aluco*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 89.

BROWN OWL.—Unlike the preceding this is a very general feeder, preying upon rats, moles, rabbits, small leverets, &c. and is consequently destructive to game. It builds in old trees, and is a very early breeder, frequently hatching by the end of March. It is the only British species that hoots.

ORDER II. OMNIVORI.

GENUS III. CORVUS. *Linn.*

- SP. 15. C. *Corax*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 107.

RAVEN.—Not so plentiful as formerly.

- SP. 16. C. *Corone*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 108.

CARRION CROW.

- SP. 17. C. *Cornix*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 109.

ROYSTON CROW.—Plentiful on our downs from October to April.

- SP. 18. *C. frugilegus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 110.

ROOK.—Varieties of this bird, more or less spotted with grey and white, not unfrequently occur at Bottisham. There are two specimens of this kind from that neighbourhood, in the Museum of the Cambridge Philosophical Society.

- SP. 19. *C. Monedula*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 111.

JACKDAW.

- SP. 20. *C. Pica*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 113.

MAGPIE.

- SP. 21. *C. glandarius*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 114.

JAY.—This is a rare bird at Bottisham, and only an occasional visitant of that district; though more plentiful in the woodlands. At Gamlingay I have observed them in abundance.

GENUS IV. BOMBYCIVORA. *Temm.*

- SP. 22. *B. garrula*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 124.

BOHEMIAN WAX-WING.—I have been informed that some few years back two flights of these birds were at different times observed near Cambridge.

GENUS V. STURNUS. *Linn.*

- SP. 23. *S. vulgaris*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 132.

STARLING.—Towards autumn these birds congregate in immense flocks.

ORDER III. INSECTIVORI.

GENUS VI. LANIUS. *Linn.*

- SP. 24. *L. Excubitor*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 142.

CINEREOUS SHRIKE.—Has been observed to visit Cambridgeshire in the autumnal and winter months. There is a specimen

in the collection of Dr. Thackeray, which was found dead at Melbourn in the year 1824, and was supposed to have been recently killed by a hawk.

SP. 25. *L. Collurio*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 147.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE.—This species has occasionally been shot at Cherry-Hinton.

GENUS VII. MUSCICAPA. *Linn.*

SP. 26. *M. grisola*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 152.

SPOTTED FLY-CATCHER.—This is one of our latest summer visitants, never appearing before the middle, and often not till the end, of May. Its food consists entirely of insects, taken on the wing. The method which it adopts for this purpose is somewhat singular, and as I believe peculiar to itself. Taking its station generally on the top of a post, it watches till an insect passes by, when it suddenly darts forward, hovers for a moment in order to secure its prey, and then returns to the same spot again. This operation it will often repeat for a considerable length of time without changing its place.

GENUS VIII. TURDUS. *Linn.*

SP. 27. *T. viscivorus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 160.

MISSEL THRUSH.—Tolerably plentiful in the neighbourhood of Bottisham, where it remains all the year round. Its song is very powerful, and in mild weather is often heard as early as the beginning of January, but wholly ceases by the end of May.

SP. 28. *T. pilaris*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 163.

FIELDFARE.—This is one of our winter visitants. It is seldom seen before November, but it remains with us till very late in the spring. At Anglesea Abbey in particular, I have for some years back noticed individuals as late as the middle of May.

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SP. 29. *T. musicus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 164.

SONG-THRUSH.—Sings from the end of January to the middle of July.

SP. 30. *T. iliacus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 165.

REDWING.—Migratory like the Fieldfare; but generally preceding that species in its arrival.

SP. 31. *T. torquatus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 166.

RING-OUZEL.—I have been informed that a single bird of this species was shot on the borders of the county, near Great Chesterford, but I could not learn at what season of the year.

SP. 32. *T. Merula*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 168.

BLACKBIRD.—Sings from the beginning of February to the end of July.

GENUS IX. SYLVIA. *Lath.*

SP. 33. *S. Phragmitis*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 189.

SEDGE-WARBLER.—This and all the other species of this genus, with the exception of the Redbreast (*S. Rubecula*), are birds of passage, appearing with us in the spring and departing either before or at the approach of autumn. The Sedge-warbler is first seen the last week in April. It is very plentiful throughout the fens and low grounds of Cambridgeshire, especially where there are osiers and other covert, in which situations it remains closely concealed, rarely exposing itself to view. The nest is suspended at a small height from the ground between the stems of the *Arundo Phragmites*. During the breeding season it sings incessantly night and day in a somewhat hurried and confused manner, often imitating the notes of other birds.

SP. 34. *S. Luscinia*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 195.

NIGHTINGALE.—This species is seldom heard with us before the 16th of April. After the young broods are hatched, which usually takes place by the end of the first week in June, its song wholly ceases.

- SP. 35. *S. atracapilla*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 201.

BLACKCAP.—The note of this bird much resembles, and is only inferior to, that of the Nightingale. It is usually first heard about the middle of April, but in very mild seasons I have noticed it as early as the 29th of March. It continues in full song till August.

- SP. 36. *S. hortensis*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 206.

GREATER PETTYCHAPS.—This species is not very unfrequent in gardens, copses, and high hedges; though more plentiful some years than others. Its note is soft, possessing much variety, and particularly pleasing; but the individual which utters it, from its extreme shyness and its manner of concealing itself in the thickest parts of the wood, is not often seen. I never heard it before the 1st of May nor after the 18th of July.

- SP. 37. *S. cinerea*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 207.

WHITETHROAT.—Towards the end of April, this species resorts to our hedges in great quantities, where it must often have attracted notice by its very peculiar manners. For the most part it sings concealed, but every now and then it may be observed to rise suddenly from its retreat to a considerable height in the air, and without desisting from its song, to shoot about with some rapidity, accompanying its flight all the while with singular jerks and gesticulations of the wing. After continuing these movements for a greater or less interval, it returns slowly to the bush from whence it sprung, and resumes its former station.

I cannot forbear mentioning in this place, that I have at different times been much inclined to suspect, that under the name of Whitethroat, there have been two species hitherto confounded together. What has chiefly led me to this opinion, is the circumstance of my having occasionally noticed amongst these birds certain individuals, which not only differed strikingly from the above in habits and manners, but also in note, and which invariably preceded the others in their arrival by a week or a fortnight. This year in particular, I observed some of these last as early as the first week in April. Their haunts were

much the same as those of the common sort, being generally in thick hedges and close copses of underwood: in these situations however they were oftener heard than seen, as they always sculked about in the most concealed spots, and never rose into the air with that peculiarity of gesture which I have attempted to describe above. Their song too was very different, being much superior to that of the common sort, more melodious and varied in its notes, though so soft and inward as to be scarcely noticed unless near: moreover, this was never exerted on wing. That these birds are really distinct from the others, I will not at present presume to decide, as I have not hitherto had an opportunity of comparing specimens of each sort together, which would afford the only means of detecting a specific difference if such exist between them. I find myself however somewhat corroborated in my suspicions, by the following observation of Montagu. In his Ornithological Dictionary, (Art. Whitethroat) he mentions having more than once killed a bird whose plumage differed in some respects from that of the common Whitethroat, and in one instance from off the nest, which contained four eggs almost entirely white, not nearly so much speckled with brown and ash-colour as those of this bird generally are: and whose weight was also greater. He confesses himself to have been much puzzled on this occasion, and concludes by hinting at the possibility of its being proved hereafter that there are two distinct species.

SP. 38. S. Curruca, Temm. Man. d'Ornith. p. 209.

LESSER WHITETHROAT.—This bird, the Lesser Whitethroat of Latham and Montagu, corresponds so exactly in every particular with the *Sylvia Curruca* of Temminck, that I have accordingly referred it to that species, though it is very doubtful whether it be the *Motacilla Curruca* of Linnæus. In this country it does not appear to have been generally noticed, nor at all known till Latham first described it in the Supplement to his Synopsis, which circumstance is probably owing to its being of very local occurrence, and almost entirely confined to the eastern parts of the kingdom. In Cambridgeshire, it is far from uncommon,

making its first appearance in the last week of April. Like the rest of its tribe it is extremely shy and very difficult to get sight of, though when near easily recognized by its note, which consists of a shrill shivering cry repeated at intervals from the thickest parts of the wood. It resides for the most part in copses and gardens, building its nest in some low shrub at the height of about four feet from the ground. This is of a very loose and flimsy structure, and composed of dry bents with the addition of a small quantity of wool placed in patches on its exterior surface; within, it is lined with a scanty supply of white hairs. The eggs are five in number, white, spotted chiefly towards the greater end with small dots of brown, and larger irregular stains of the same colour. Incubation commences about the 20th of May, and the young broods are fledged in June, but the note of the parent birds is continued till the middle or even till the end of July. Montagu has stated very accurately the several points of difference between this species and the preceding, which, if attended to, will always serve to distinguish them from each other. Latham's figure, in his first supplement, is incorrect in representing the upper parts of the plumage of a deep brown, whereas they are wholly cinereous.

SP. 39. *S. Rubecula*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 215.

REDBREAST.—This species continues in song the whole year round, excepting in times of severe frost.

SP. 40. *S. Phoenicurus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 220.

REDSTART.—A very abundant species throughout Cambridgeshire where it arrives the middle of April. It is particularly constant in the time of its first appearance, perhaps more so than any other bird, as I do not ever remember to have noticed its arrival before the twelfth or later than the sixteenth of this month.

SP. 41. *S. Hippolais*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 222.

LESSER PETTYCHAPS.—Of all our summer visitants this is undoubtedly the earliest, often arriving by the middle, or at latest by the end of March. Although I have generally observed it to be

diffused in tolerable plenty over most other parts of the county, yet, in the neighbourhood of Bottisham, it is of very uncertain appearance, as in some seasons not a single individual is seen there, whilst in others they are abundant. It is a restless and an active bird, and is much attached to spruce firs and other tall trees, from the tops of which it issues its incessant but monotonous song, consisting only of two loud piercing notes, which it continues throughout the summer and even till late in September. By this and by its early arrival, it may readily be distinguished from the following species, but as far as respects plumage, the two are so extremely similar, that it is difficult to discriminate between dead specimens. Most authors represent this as being of less size and of a paler colour in its under parts, but I am of opinion, that little reliance can be placed on these marks, as from an examination of a great many specimens of each, I have found them very variable. The only constant character that I have observed, resides in the colour of the legs, which in this are dusky, whereas in the following they are pale brown.

SP. 42. *S. Trochilus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 224.

WILLOW WREN.—This is a great deal more plentiful than the preceding, and not so much confined to large trees and woods, being a general inhabitant of hedges, underwood, and a variety of other situations. It appears about the same time as the Redstart, and, as is the case with many of this tribe, the males invariably precede the females, by an interval of several days. Its song consists of seven or eight notes which are modulated in a soft and particularly pleasing, though somewhat plaintive, manner. This is continued without intermission during the breeding season, but generally ceases by the beginning of July.

GENUS X. REGULUS. *Cuv.*

SP. 43. *R. aurocapillus*, *Selby.*

Sylvia Regulus, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 229.

GOLDEN-CROWNED WREN.—These birds from their diminutive size and solitary habits are not often noticed, and may be easily

overlooked, but I believe them to be very plentiful wherever there are plantations of spruce firs, to which trees they seem extremely partial, hanging their nests to the under-surface of the lower branches. Though apparently of so delicate a nature, they remain with us all the winter, and appear to suffer less from severe cold than even many of our hard-billed species. It is not at all improbable that at this season they may derive their chief support from the smaller tribes of Tipulidæ, many of which are to be found on wing and in a state of activity at all times of the year, and even occasionally when the ground is covered with snow.

GENUS XI. TROGLODYTES. *Cuv.*

SP. 44. *T. europæus*, *Cuv.*

Sylvia Troglodytes, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 233.

COMMON WREN.—Like the Robin, this bird sings throughout the year, but its note in the winter months is very weak compared to what it is in the spring.

GENUS XII. SAXICOLA. *Bechst.*

SP. 45. *S. Œnanthe*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 237.

WHEAT-EAR.—I have occasionally observed these birds on the Devil's Ditch and the open parts about Newmarket heath, but from their not being in any great plenty, I am unable to say at what period of the year they first visit those districts, or when they withdraw. They breed on the first-mentioned place, depositing their nest in an old rabbit-burrow, or some other hole under ground.

SP. 46. *S. rubetra*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 244.

WHIN-CHAT.—Like the preceding a bird of passage, appearing in the middle of April, and departing in the autumn.

SP. 47. *S. rubicola*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 246.

STONE-CHAT.—This is plentiful, and resides with us all the year on fens and other open grounds.

GENUS XIII. ACCENTOR. *Bechst.*

SP. 48. *A. alpinus*. *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 248.

ALPINE ACCENTOR.—The discovery of this addition to the Ornithology of Great Britain is due to Dr. Thackeray, who observed a pair of these birds in the open space immediately under the east window of King's College chapel, on the twenty-third of November, 1822: one of them, which proved to be a female, was shot, and is at present in his collection. I am not aware that any others have since been met with in this country, where indeed it can only be looked upon as an accidental visitant. According to Temminck its native haunts are the Swiss Alps and the mountainous parts of Germany and France.

SP. 49. *A. modularis*. *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 249.

HEDGE-ACCENTOR.—One of the few soft-billed birds that remain with us the whole year, singing at all seasons if the weather be mild.

GENUS XIV. MOTACILLA. *Linn.*

SP. 50. *M. alba*. *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 255.

PIED WAGTAIL.—I had often observed that we see greater numbers of these birds in the autumn than in any other season of the year, but was not aware of the cause till I learnt from Selby's *Illustrations of British Ornithology*, that in the north of England this species is a regular migrant, retiring southward in October, and not re-appearing till February or the beginning of March. This circumstance renders it highly probable that at the time above-mentioned the birds of our own neighbourhood are joined by those which arrive from the higher parts of the country.

SP. 51. *M. borealis*. *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 257.

GREY WAGTAIL.—This is the least plentiful of the three British species of Wagtail, and is only seen in Cambridgeshire during the autumnal and winter months, appearing first in October or earlier. In the spring it retires northward to breed. About Broomfield I have noticed it exist frequently in January.

SP. 52. *M. flava*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 260.

YELLOW WAGTAIL. — This species visits us in the spring and departs in the autumn. It does not appear to be uncommon in many parts of the county, though much more so than the *Motacilla alba*. I have occasionally seen them in considerable plenty upon the arable lands bordering on Bottisham and Swaffham fens, and likewise in the low meadows about Quy Water.

GENUS XV. ANTHUS. *Bechst.*

SP. 53. *A. pratensis*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 269.

TIT-PIBIT.—Equally abundant on the low and fenny as well as on the high and heathy parts of the county, in which situations it is to be found all the year. In the autumn it appears to be subject to a considerable change of plumage, from which circumstance some authors have erroneously made two species of this bird.

SP. 54. *A. arboreus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 271.

TREE-PIBIT.—This species very strongly resembles the last in plumage, but may always be distinguished by the curvature of the hind claw, and the greater dilatation of the bill towards its base. In its haunts it is widely different, being entirely confined to woods and plantations of tall trees, and never frequenting the open parts of the country; nor does it remain with us through the winter, but makes its first appearance about the third week in April, and departs at the approach of autumn. Its song, which is delivered on wing in its descent, is heard till the middle of July.

ORDER IV. GRANIVORI.

GENUS XVI. ALAUDA. *Linn.*

SP. 55. *A. arvensis*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 281.

SKY-LARK.—These birds get together in small companies at the approach of winter, but the flocks are not considerable except in very severe weather.

GENUS XVII. PARUS. *Linn.*

- SP. 56. *P. major*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 287.

GREAT TITMOUSE.—In hard weather this and the two following species leave their native woods and resort to the immediate vicinity of dwelling-houses, in order to avail themselves of what they can pick up. At such times I have observed that they will devour flesh with greediness, and may be caught in great numbers by a trap baited with suet.

- SP. 57. *P. cœruleus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 289.

BLUE TITMOUSE.

- SP. 58. *P. palustris*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 291.

MARSH TITMOUSE.

- SP. 59. *P. ater*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 288.

COLE TITMOUSE.—Less frequent with us than any of the other species, though probably often overlooked from its strong resemblance to the preceding. It may however be easily distinguished by its peculiar note independently of other characteristic marks.

- SP. 60. *P. caudatus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 296.

LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE.—Very common in woods, constructing its singular nest in cedars, small firs, and trees of that kind. The young broods do not disperse when fledged, but follow the parent-birds through the autumn and winter.

GENUS XVIII. EMBERIZA. *Linn.*

- SP. 61. *E. citrinella*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 304.

YELLOW BUNTING.—In some places this species is known by the name of *Writing Lark*, from the peculiar markings on the egg, which have somewhat the appearance of written characters.

- SP. 62. *E. Miliaria*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 306.

COMMON BUNTING.—These birds being much attached to open cultivated ground and extensive corn lands, are extremely plentiful in Cambridgeshire where they are called Bunting Larks. Towards the approach of winter they collect together in large flocks, and do not separate till the ensuing spring.

- SP. 63. *E. Schoeniculus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 307.

REED BUNTING.—Common in fens and low meadows, but confined to such situations. As far as I have observed, the nest is always placed on the ground, and never suspended between the stems of aquatic plants, as described by Bewick and some other authors, who have strangely confounded the manners of this bird with those of the Sedge Warbler (*Sylvia Phragmitis*.) This error has probably arisen from the circumstance of the two species frequenting the same haunts, and being in a general way both called *Reed Sparrows*.

GENUS XIX. PYRRHULA, *Briss.*

- SP. 64. *P. vulgaris*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 338.

BULFINCH.—This is generally reckoned a very common bird; but I have rarely noticed it in the neighbourhood of Bottisham. Perhaps it is attached to more wooded districts.

GENUS XX. FRINGILLA, *Illig.*

- SP. 65. *F. Chloris*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 346.

GREENFINCH.—Collect together in large flocks in the winter.

- SP. 66. *F. domestica*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 350.

HOUSE SPARROW.—White varieties of this bird have been occasionally observed near Bottisham.

- SP. 67. *F. montana*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 354.

TREE SPARROW.—I have inserted this species on the authority of Selby, who, in his *Illustrations of British Ornithology*, mentions having received specimens from the neighbourhood of Cambridge.

- SP. 68. *F. cœlebs*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 357.

CHAFFINCH.—This species continues in full song from the first week in February to the end of June, after which time it is silent till September, when it reassumes its note for a few weeks if the weather be mild. As far as I have observed, both sexes remain with us all the year, and do not appear to separate at the approach of winter, as they are said to do in other parts of England.

- SP. 69. *F. cannabina*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 364.

COMMON LINNET.—These birds begin to assemble in flocks about the middle of October, which increase in numbers as the weather becomes more severe.

- SP. 70. *F. Spinus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 371.

SISKIN.—Only an occasional visitant during the winter months. Large flocks appeared at Bottisham the last week in January of the present year (1825) and many specimens were killed both male and female*.

- SP. 71. *F. Carduelis*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 376.

GOLDFINCH.

ORDER V. ZYGODACTYLI.

GENUS XXI. CUCULUS, *Linn.*

- SP. 72. *C. canorus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 381.

CUCKOW.—This species visits us in the middle of April, and is heard till the beginning of July, when it again departs; but the young birds appear to remain for a much longer period, as I have occasionally observed them in September. I never found the egg of this bird myself, but have seen one which was taken at Great Swaffham from the nest of a Hedge Accentor, (*Accentor Modularis*.)

GENUS XXII. PICUS, *Linn.*

- SP. 73. *P. viridis*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 391.

GREEN WOODPECKER.

* This species was also noticed in Cambridgeshire by Turner. See his work, *De Avibus*, p. 56.

- SP. 74. *P. major*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 395.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER.—Much less common than the preceding, but has been occasionally shot at Bottisham.

- SP. 75. *P. minor*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 399.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER.—I have at different times known several instances in which this bird has been met with in Cambridgeshire, but it must be esteemed a rare species. The last specimen which occurred to my knowledge was shot at Anglesea Abbey in March 1824, and is now in the Museum of the Cambridge Philosophical Society.

GENUS XXIII. YUNX, *Linn.*

- SP. 76. *Y. Torquilla*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 403.

WRYNECK.—A few of these birds visit us regularly every spring, but they are never plentiful.

ORDER VI. ANISODACTYLI.

GENUS XXIV. SITTA, *Linn.*

- SP. 77. *S. europæa*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 407.

NUTHATCH.—Not uncommon in the neighbourhood of Bottisham. During a certain portion of the year, these birds feed chiefly upon nuts which they break with their bill, after having firmly fixed them in the crevices of the bark of trees. For this purpose they appear to resort frequently to the same spots, as I have observed some old trees in particular whose clefts are full of broken shells, whilst in others not one is to be seen.

GENUS XXV. CERTHIA, *Illig.*

- SP. 78. *C. familiaris*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 410.

COMMON CREEPER.—This bird frequently builds its nest under the loose and decayed bark of old trees; it consists of little else

than a few twigs and small sticks piled rudely together with a layer of feathers upon the top of them. The eggs are very numerous, often as many as nine or ten.

ORDER VII. ALCYONES.

GENUS XXVI. ALCEDO, *Linn.*

SP. 79. *A. Ispida*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 423.

COMMON KING'S-FISHER.—Tolerably plentiful in the neighbourhood of streams and clear waters. During its flight, which is very rapid, it utters a shrill piercing note that may be heard to a great distance.

ORDER VIII. CHELIDONES.

GENUS XXVII. HIRUNDO, *Linn.*

SP. 80. *H. rustica*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 427.

CHIMNEY SWALLOW.—The arrival of this species in the neighbourhood of Bottisham usually takes place about the fifteenth of April, as I have found by many years' observation, but has been occasionally deferred till the twenty-second, which is the latest that I ever noticed. The first broods are fledged early in August, and towards the middle of that month they begin to collect into large flocks, which increase in numbers as the season advances and the time of departure draws near. This, with respect to the majority, takes place in the beginning of October, but stragglers may be seen a week or two longer. I once observed a white variety of this bird at Ely.

SP. 81. *H. urbica*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 428.

HOUSE MARTIN.—This appears about a week after the swallow, but is seldom in great plenty before the beginning of May. It however remains with us later than that species, and is occasionally seen through the first week in November*, though the greater part withdraw before that time. Previously to migration they congregate upon the roofs of houses and churches.

SP. 82. *H. riparia*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 429.

SAND MARTIN.—The only places where I have hitherto observed these birds in Cambridgeshire, are the chalky banks by the side of the road near Quy Water, and some gravel-pits in the neighbourhood of Bourn Bridge. In the former of these situations I have noticed them regularly every year, and have found the time of their arrival to be about the middle of April, but I am unable to say when they leave us, though I am inclined to suspect that this takes place at a much earlier period than with either of the preceding species.

GENUS XXVIII. CYPSELUS, *Illig.*

SP. 83. *C. murarius*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 434.

SWIFT.—This species is by far the latest in its arrival of all the Swallow tribe, as I never remember to have seen it before the seventh of May. Generally speaking it is equally remarkable for its early departure, withdrawing from most places by the beginning of August, and often by the end of July. A singular exception, however, to this last mentioned circumstance takes place with respect to these birds in the neighbourhood of Ely, where the bulk of them hardly ever retire till quite the end of August, and a few individuals may often be observed through the first week in September †. From what cause they are induced to pro-

* Dr. Thackeray informs me that he has known three or four individuals stay about the south side of Clare Hall till the eighteenth of this month.

† A single bird has also been noticed by Dr. Thackeray about King's College Chapel for many successive days during the early part of September.

tract their stay at that place so much beyond its usual limit I am unable to say, but the fact itself I regularly noticed during a period of several years that I was in the habit of residing there for the summer months. Possibly they may in some measure be influenced by the cathedral and other old buildings adjacent, in the holes and crannies of which these birds meet with a retreat peculiarly congenial to their habits, as appears by the immense numbers that annually resort thither in the early part of the season*.

GENUS XXIX. CAPRIMULGUS, *Linn.*

SP. 84. *C. europæus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 436.

GOATSUCKER.—I have occasionally observed these birds about Ely, and also in the neighbourhood of Bottisham, but at the last mentioned place they have not of late years appeared in such plenty as formerly. Like the rest of this order they are migratory, arriving about the beginning of June and departing in September. In the dusk of the evening they utter a singular chattering noise somewhat resembling that of a spinning-wheel, by which they may easily be distinguished. From an examination of the stomach, their food appears to consist of the larger night-flying Phalænæ, particularly those belonging to the Linnæan section Noctua, and the various species of Phryganea. It is also probable that during a short part of the season they derive much of their support from the Midsummer Dor (*Melolontha solstitialis*) as I have seen them hawking about in places where these insects were abundant.

* White, in his Natural History of Selborne, observes that swallows are seen later at Oxford than elsewhere, and enquires whether it may not be owing to the vast massy buildings of that place. See his twenty-third Letter to Pennant.

ORDER IX. COLUMBÆ.

GENUS XXX. COLUMBA, Linn.

SP. 85. C. Palumbus, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 444.

RING-DOVE.—These birds are exceedingly abundant in Cambridgeshire, where they do an incredible deal of mischief by devouring pease, beans and other leguminous plants. They are well known by their cooing notes which are heard incessantly from February to October. After that time they begin to collect together into enormous flocks, which disperse themselves over the country during the day-time to feed, but return regularly home in the evening to roost in their native woods and plantations. Some of these flocks do not wholly separate till very late in the spring, though the greater part pair off for the purpose of breeding by the beginning of March. In the Autumn I have observed that they subsist chiefly upon acorns and beech-mast.

SP. 86. C. Cenas, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 445.

STOCK-DOVE.—White, in his Natural History of Selborne, mentions the Stock-Dove as being seen there during the winter months only, appearing in large flocks about the end of November, and departing in February. Whatever may be the case with respect to these birds in the southern counties, with us they certainly remain the whole year, as I have noticed them at all seasons and repeatedly found their nests. They are considerably less plentiful than the Ring-Dove, but have much the habits of that species with which they frequently associate in hard weather. Like them they breed very early in the spring. The nest which is flat and shallow, consists merely of a few sticks put loosely together in the hollow of some old tree. The eggs are two in number, white like those of the Ring-Dove, but somewhat smaller and rather more rounded. As far as I have observed, the Stock-Dove never cooes, but utters only a hollow rumbling note during the breeding season, which may

be heard to a considerable distance. Montagu in his Ornithological Dictionary has evidently confounded this species with the Rock-Dove, (*Columba livia*, Temm.) which is supposed to be the origin of our dove-house pigeon, and is found in a wild state upon some of the steep shores and cliffs of Great Britain, but is not a native of Cambridgeshire. The Stock-Dove and Ring-Dove are indiscriminately called *Woodpigeons* by the country people.

SP. 87. *C. Turtur*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 448.

TURTLE-DOVE.—Some few individuals of this species visit the plantations in the neighbourhood of Bottisham regularly every spring, and are first seen towards the latter end of May, but they are never numerous, and do not stay with us long, departing again soon after the breeding season is over. The young birds, however, appear to remain for a longer period, as I have had them shot in the month of September. I have also noticed this species at Stetchworth and Wood-Ditton.

ORDER X. GALLINÆ.

GENUS XXXI. PHASIANUS, *Linn.*

SP. 88. *P. colchicus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 453.

COMMON PHEASANT.—Instances have now and then occurred at Bottisham in which the hen of this species had partially assumed the plumage of the cock. This singular change has only been observed in individuals which had reached an advanced age. Such are termed by sportsmen *mule-birds*.

GENUS XXXII. PERDIX, *Lath.*

SP. 89. *P. rubra*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 485.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.—One of these birds was shot near Anglesea Abbey on the twenty-seventh of September 1821, and is at present in my possession.

- SP. 90. *P. cinerea*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 488.

COMMON PARTRIDGE.—A covey of these birds were bred in the neighbourhood of Clayhithe, of which a considerable number were perfectly white.

- SP. 91. *P. Coturnix*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 491.

QUAIL.—This species is one of our latest summer visitants as I have seldom noticed it before the beginning of June; but it remains with us till the end of October. In the present year (1825) two specimens were killed at Bottisham so late as on the eleventh of November.

ORDER XI. CURSORES.

GENUS XXXIII. OTIS, *Linn.*

- SP. 92. *O. Tarda*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 506.

GREAT BUSTARD.—Formerly these birds were plentiful in the open tracts about Newmarket Heath, and till within a few years single individuals have occasionally been seen in that neighbourhood, but they are supposed to be now almost extinct. Ray and Willoughby mention also Royston Heath as a place frequented in their time by this species.

- SP. 93. *O. Tetrax*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 507.

LITTLE BUSTARD.—Bewick has figured a specimen of this bird which was taken alive on the edge of Newmarket Heath. So far as I am aware no other instance has occurred of its having been met with in this county.

ORDER XII. GRALLATORES.

GENUS XXXIV. OEDICNEMUS, *Temm.*

SP. 94. *O. crepitans*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 521.

STONE-CURLEW.—This species does not appear to be plentiful in these districts. I have seen specimens that were killed in the vicinity of Cambridge, and am informed by Dr. Thackeray, that about two years since he had brought him a young bird which was bred very near that place, but I never observed any myself. It is migratory, and only met with during the summer months.

GENUS XXXV. CHARADRIUS, *Linn.*

SP. 95. *C. pluvialis*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 535.

GOLDEN PLOVER.—Common in the fens as well as the high lands, but appear to breed generally in the last mentioned situations.

SP. 96. *C. Morinellus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 537.

DOTTEREL.—This baits with us for a short time in its passage to and from the North where it probably breeds, being seen here in the spring and autumn only. The largest flocks occur about the middle of September. They frequent the same situations as the preceding species.

SP. 97. *C. Hiaticula*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 539.

RINGED PLOVER.—Great quantities of these birds appeared in Bottisham and Swaffham fens in the months of June and July 1824, which was a remarkably wet season. They are by no means regular visitants of those districts.

Montagu asserts in the Supplement to his Ornithological Dictionary that this species resides on the sea shore the whole year, but from the above circumstance it is probable that they occasionally retire inland to breed.

GENUS XXXVI. VANELLUS, *Briss.*

SP. 98. *V. cristatus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 550.

LAPWING.—A very abundant species. In the autumn they collect into large flocks.

GENUS XXXVII. GRUS, *Pallas.*

SP. 99. *G. cinerea*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 557.

CRANE.—In the time of Ray,* these birds appear to have visited our fens in large flocks regularly during the winter months, but they have long since deserted them; nor is it likely, from the altered state of the country in consequence of the improved system of drainage which is now carried on, that they will ever return thither. According to Pennant (*Brit. Zool.* Vol. II. p. 629.) a single specimen was killed near Cambridge about the year 1773. This I believe to be the latest instance on record in which the species has been met with.

GENUS XXXVIII. ARDEA, *Linn.*

SP. 100. *A. cinerea*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 567.

HERON.—In hard weather this species resorts to those brooks and running streams which seldom or never freeze, and at such times is met with in great numbers; but in other seasons it is only occasionally noticed in the neighbourhood of Bottisham, there being no place within a considerable distance where these birds are known to breed.

SP. 101. *A. stellaris*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 580.

BITTERN.—These birds are met with in Burwell fen and occasionally on the moors about Cambridge, but they appear to be getting more scarce every year. Formerly they were plentiful.

* "In palustibus Lincolnensibus et Cantabrigiensibus magni horum greges hyberno tempore inveniuntur." *Raii Syn. Meth. Avium*, p. 95. Art. The Crane.

GENUS XXXIX. RECURVIROSTRA, Linn.

SP. 102. R. Avocetta, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 590.

SCOOPING AVOSET.—I have inserted this species on the authority of Donovan, who, in his History of British Birds, (*Pl.* 66.) speaks of it as being common in the breeding season in the fens of Cambridgeshire. It is very probable that this was formerly the case, when our marshes were more extensive than they are at present, but I have not been able to learn that it is ever met with now.

GENUS XL. NUMENIUS, Briss.

SP. 103. N. arquata, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 603.

COMMON CURLEW.—Sometimes seen in small flocks about Newmarket Heath.

SP. 104. N. Phæopus, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 604.

WHIMBREL.—Has been occasionally exposed for sale in Cambridge.

GENUS XLI. TRINGA, Briss.

SP. 105. T. variabilis, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 612.

DUNLIN.—These birds now and then visit our fens during the summer months, and it is not improbable that they may breed in those situations. In the beginning of July 1824, they were very abundant. Several which were then killed and came under my observation, I found to answer, in most particulars, pretty correctly to Temminck's description of this species, as it appears in its summer plumage. The black, however, on the under parts was very variable in different specimens, some of which were only faintly spotted with this colour, whilst in others the whole of the belly and abdomen were thickly blotched over with large irregular patches of the same, but in no case without some mixture of white. From this last circumstance it is likely, that at the time above-mentioned, the season of incubation was just over, as, according to Temminck, so long as that lasts, the belly

is wholly of a deep black, but immediately after a change takes place in the colour of that part, and the white begins to re-appear. Those birds which were the darkest in this respect, were also a trifle larger than the others, and had the bill somewhat longer. These last characters indicate I believe the female sex.

SP. 106. *T. minuta*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 624.

LITTLE SANDPIPER.—I suppose this to be the *Little Sandpiper* of Pennant, (*Brit. Zool.* Vol. II. p. 473.) which he described from a specimen shot near Cambridge in the month of September, and which is the only one I ever heard of. At the same time there is some doubt attached to its identity, as it appears from Temminck, that under that name two species have been often confounded together, the *Tringa Temminckii* and the *Tringa Minuta* of the Manuel d'Ornithologie, and Pennant's description is so short and imperfect, that it is not easy to pronounce with certainty which of these two was before him when it was drawn up, though from the circumstance of the legs being mentioned as black, I am inclined to think it was the latter. Add to this, that I am not aware of the *Tringa Temminckii* having ever been met with in England, except the *Little Sandpiper*, described by Montagu in the Appendix to his Ornithological Dictionary, be of that species, which I think not improbable. That however was shot in Devonshire.

SP. 107. *T. cinerea*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 627.

KNOT.—According to Montagu these birds were formerly found in the Isle of Ely during the autumnal months, and I have heard of specimens being occasionally met with still.

SP. 108. *T. pugnax*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 631.

RUFF, Male. } This species visits us in the spring, remains
REEVE, Female. } through the summer and departs at the approach of autumn,
but is much more plentiful some years than others. It is found
in the Isle of Ely, and occasionally in Bottisham and Swaffham
fens. The male bird loses the ruff so soon as the season of
incubation is over.

GENUS XLII. TOTANUS, *Bechst.*SP. 109. *T. fuscus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 639.

I insert this species with considerable hesitation. According to Temminck it is synonymous with the *Scolopax Cantabrigiensis* of Gmelin and Latham, and the *Cambridge Godwit* of Pennant, (*Brit. Zool.* Vol. II. p. 447.) which was originally described by this last Author from a stuffed specimen shot in the vicinity of Cambridge. Since that time it appears to have been a great question whether the *Cambridge Godwit* was admissible as a distinct species. Some have supposed it to be the same with the *Greenshank*, whilst Montagu, in his Supplement to the Ornithological Dictionary, suspects it to be only the young of the *Redshank*. Where the truth lies I shall not presume to decide at present.

SP. 110. *T. Calidris*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 643.

REDSHANK.—These birds were formerly plentiful in the fens, particularly during the summer months, but are rarely met with now. Bewick has figured a specimen which had been sent him from Cambridge.

SP. 111. *T. ochropus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 651.

GREEN SANDPIPER.—This is a very rare species. The only specimen that ever came under my observation was shot in the Isle of Ely between Downham and the Hundred-foot River, on the 28th of August, 1821.

SP. 112. *T. Hypoleucos*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 657.

COMMON SANDPIPER.—These birds are occasionally met with on the banks of the river below Cambridge.

SP. 113. *T. Glottis*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 659.

GREENSHANK.—This is another species which, since the drainage of the greater part of our fens, has become very rare in Cambridgeshire. There is a specimen, however, in the collection of Dr. Thackeray which was killed in the county.

GENUS XLIII. LIMOSA, *Briss.*

- SP. 114. *L. Melanura*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 664.

COMMON GODWIT.—Formerly plentiful throughout the fens, where according to Willoughby, it was known by the name of *Yarwhelp*. It is not very often met with now.

- SP. 115. *L. rufa*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 668.

BED GODWIT.—I have given this species on the authority of Bewick, who has figured and described a specimen that had been sent him from Cambridge.

GENUS XLIV. SCOLOPAX, *Illig.*

- SP. 116. *S. Rusticola*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 673.

WOODCOCK.—This bird usually makes its first appearance in the neighbourhood of Bottisham about the end of October, but was once killed as early as on the 18th of that month. It remains with us till the middle or occasionally till the end of March.

- SP. 117. *S. major*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 675.

GREAT SNIPE.—A mutilated specimen of this bird was brought to the Cambridge market some time since.

- SP. 118. *S. Gallinago*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 676.

COMMON SNIPE.—Many of these birds, if not all of them, remain with us the whole year, and breed constantly in Burwell and Swaffham fens.

- SP. 119. *S. Gallinula*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 678.

JACK SNIPE.—This species is less plentiful than the preceding, and is a regular migrant, appearing first about the end of September. I never heard of an instance of its breeding with us.

GENUS XLV. RALLUS, *Linn.*

- SP. 120. *R. aquaticus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 683.

WATER RAIL.—Occasionally met with in the neighbourhood of Bottisham.

GENUS XLVI. GALLINULA, *Lath.*

- SP. 121. *G. Crex*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 686.

LAND RAIL.—This is a migratory species which visits us in the spring and departs in the autumn, but is by no means plentiful.

- SP. 122. *G. Porzana*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 688.

SPOTTED GALLINULE.—Montagu supposes this species likewise to be migratory, and not found in England during the winter, but if so, it must visit us very early in the year, as it has been killed near Bottisham in the middle of March. It frequents the same situations with the Water Rail, (*Sp.* 120.) but occurs much more rarely.

- SP. 123. *G. Baillonii*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 692.

Caught alive at Melbourn in January 1823, and is in the collection of Dr. Thackeray. This is the only instance on record in which this species has been met with in England.

- SP. 124. *G. chloropus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 693.

COMMON GALLINULE.—This species generally builds on the ground, but I have occasionally found the nest in trees. In one instance it was constructed amongst the ivy encircling a large elm which hung over the water's edge, at the height of at least ten feet from the ground.

ORDER XIII. PINNATIPEDES.

GENUS XLVII. FULICA, *Briss.*

- SP. 125. *F. atra*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 706.

COMMON COOT.—These birds were formerly plentiful in the fens between Ely and Littleport. They are probably still to be met with in other parts of the county, as they are of frequent occurrence in the Cambridge market.

GENUS XLVIII. PHALAROPUS, *Briss.*

SP. 126. *P. platyrhynchus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 712.

GREY PHALAROPE.—Three specimens of this rare bird were shot in the fens near Cambridge in the hard winter of 1819-20.

GENUS XLIX. PODICEPS, *Lath.*

SP. 127. *P. auritus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 725.

EARED GREBE.—In the collection of Dr. Thackeray: from the Cambridge market.

SP. 128. *P. minor*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 727.

LITTLE GREBE.—Common every where in the neighbourhood of streams, ponds and other pieces of water.

ORDER XIV. PALMIPEDES.

GENUS L. STERNA, *Linn.*

SP. 129. *S. Hirundo*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 740.

COMMON TERN.—Found in the Isle of Ely during the summer months.

SP. 130. *S. nigra*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 749.

BLACK TERN.—Immense flocks of these birds appeared in Bottisham and Swaffham fens in the summer of 1824. Many of the specimens which came under my observation differed considerably from each other in their plumage, particularly with respect to the colours about the head and throat. According to Temminck, these parts, which in the winter are much varied with pure white, become in the breeding season wholly black, or at least of a very dark ash-colour like the rest of the body; but in

some of these individuals no such alteration had taken place, the forehead, space between the bill and the eyes, throat, and forepart of the neck being as white as at other times of the year, so that this periodical change of plumage cannot be looked upon as constant. Possibly however it may be confined to one sex. On the 8th of July a nest of this species was taken, which was perfectly flat, placed on the ground, about six inches in diameter, and composed of roots and dry grass, which appeared to have been trodden down so as to be rendered quite firm and compact. The eggs were two in number, of an olive-green colour, thickly spotted and blotched with deep brown, especially towards the larger end. These had been incubated some days. Montagu observes that this bird is known in some parts of Cambridgeshire by the name of *Car-swallow*.

GENUS LI. LARUS, Linn.

SP. 131. *L. marinus*, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 760.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—There is an adult bird of this species in the collection of Dr. Thackeray, which was procured in the Cambridge market.

SP. 132. *L. argentatus*, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 764.

SILVERY GULL.—Towards the middle of December 1824, several Gulls in immature plumage were shot at Overcote near Swavesey in this county, which I believe to have been the *Larus argentatus* of Temminck, which is synonymous with the *Herring Gull* of Latham and Montagu: but owing to the strong resemblance between the young of this species, and those of the preceding, and of the *L. fuscus* Temm. it was impossible to identify them with complete certainty. One of these specimens is preserved in the Museum of the Cambridge Philosophical Society.

SP. 133. *L. canus*, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 771.

COMMON GULL.—Met with occasionally in the fens, but chiefly during the autumnal and winter months. Its provincial name is *Coddy-Moddy*.

SP. 134. *L. ridibundus*, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 780.

BLACK-HEADED GULL.—In some seasons these birds frequent our fens in great plenty. Specimens shot near Bottisham in the beginning of October wanted the black head; from whence it appears that the periodical change which takes place in the colour of that part, is completed before that time.

GENUS LII. LESTRIS, Illig.

SP. 135. *L. pomarinus*, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 798.

A specimen of this rare bird (which has been only very lately discovered in this country) is in the collection of Dr. Thackeray, and was shot near Cambridge.

GENUS LIII. ANAS, Linn.

SP. 136. *A. Anser ferus*, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 818.

COMMON WILD GOOSE.—Bewick observes that many of these birds are known to remain in the fens of Cambridgeshire and to breed there. This may have been the case formerly, but I never heard of an instance myself.

SP. 137. *A. Segetum*, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 820.

BEAN GOOSE.

SP. 138. *A. albifrons*, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 821.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.

SP. 139. *A. Bernicla*, Temm. *Man. d'Ornith.* p. 824.

BRENT GOOSE.—This and the three preceding species are indiscriminately called *Wild Geese* by the country people, and occasionally appear in the Cambridge market under that name, more particularly the *A. Segetum*. They are all found in our fens during the winter months, in greater or less plenty according to the severity or the mildness of the season. The earliest flocks which I ever noticed were seen on the twentieth of October; this, however, is not much before the usual time of their first arrival.

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SP. 140. *A. Cygnus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 828.

WILD SWAN.—Seen occasionally in small flocks about our streams and ditches in very severe winters.

SP. 141. *A. Tadorna*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 833.

SHIELDRAKE.—Not uncommon.

SP. 142. *A. Boschas*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 835.

COMMON WILD DUCK.—First seen about the middle of October.

SP. 143. *A. Strepera*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 837.

GADWALL. Two of these birds were exposed for sale in the Cambridge market on the twenty-fifth of February 1824.

SP. 144. *A. acuta*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 838.

PIN-TAIL DUCK.—Shot near Cambridge, and in the collection of Dr. Thackeray.

SP. 145. *A. Penelope*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 840.

WIGEON.

SP. 146. *A. clypeata*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 842.

SHOVELLER.—This species appears to be of not unfrequent occurrence in the fens. I have seen specimens from the Isle of Ely, and also from the vicinity of Cambridge. In the market at the latter place it may often be met with.

SP. 147. *A. Querquedula*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 844.

GARGANEY.—In the collection of Dr. Thackeray: from the Cambridge market.

SP. 148. *A. Crecca*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 846.

TEAL.

SP. 149. *A. nigra*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 856.

SCOTER.—Montagu observes in his Ornithological Dictionary that this species never visits our rivers and inland waters; but I have been informed by Dr. Thackeray, that large flocks of these birds have been occasionally seen in the fens near Cambridge, from whence he has specimens in his collection.

SP. 150. *A. ferina*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 868.

POCHARD.

SP. 151. *A. Clangula*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 870.

GOLDEN EYE.—Occasionally met with in the fens near Cambridge. Willoughby mentions in his Ornithology (p. 28.) having had one sent him from thence by the name of *Shelden*.

SP. 152. *A. Fuligula*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 873.

TUFTED DUCK.—I have seen specimens of this bird which were killed in the neighbourhood of Cambridge. It is not unfrequent in the market.

SP. 153. *A. Leucophthalmos*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 876.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK.—Dr. Thackeray has a specimen of this very rare duck in his collection, which was procured in the Cambridge market.

GENUS LIV. MERGUS, *Linn.*

SP. 154. *M. Merganser*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 881.

GOOSANDER, Male. }
DUN DIVER, Female. }

SP. 155. *M. Serrator*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 884.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.—Both this and the preceding species are in the collection of Dr. Thackeray, from the Cambridge market. It is probable that they only visit this part of the country in very severe weather.

SP. 156. *M. albellus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 887.

SMEW.—This likewise can only be looked upon as an occasional visitant. I find mention in Willoughby's Ornithology (p. 337.) of a specimen that was sent to the author of that work from Cambridge; and have myself seen another, a male bird, in the collection of Dr. Thackeray, which was bought in the market at this place in April 1825.

GENUS LV. CARBO, *Meyer.*

SP. 157. *C. Cormoranus*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 894.

CORMORANT.—On the seventeenth of August in the present year (1825) one of these birds alighted on the top of King's College chapel, and was there shot. It is now in the collection of Dr. Thackeray. I have been informed that it is not unusual for this species to follow the course of rivers to a great distance from the sea.

GENUS LVI. SULA, *Briss.*

SP. 158. *S. alba*, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* p. 905.

GANNET.—This is a much more extraordinary instance of a bird's being noticed so far from its usual haunts. Two specimens were killed in Cambridgeshire during the autumn of 1824. The first of these was shot near Fulbourn on the eleventh of October, and is now in the Museum of the Cambridge Philosophical Society. About a week afterwards, the second was killed near Southery fen in the Isle of Ely. Montagu observes that in the autumn these birds leave our northern islands where they breed, journeying southward, and may be seen during their winter migration in every part of the British channel, but that generally they keep far out at sea. I cannot indeed find mention in any author of their being found inland. The above therefore appears to be a solitary instance, and must have been occasioned by some very peculiar accident.

It will be readily seen in the foregoing catalogue, that one or two species supposed to be of general occurrence are not inserted, as well as others, which it is not improbable may occasionally visit this county; but as these have never fallen under my own observation, and I have been unable to learn any thing respecting them, they are necessarily omitted. I trust, however, that what was stated in the Introduction to this Paper, will sufficiently apologize for its imperfection, and shall conclude by requesting from the Members of this Society, any further information on the subject they may chance to possess.